

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Responsive to the objection thereto, the specification has been amended to provide antecedent basis for the claim terms.

Concerning the objection to the drawings, it is respectfully noted that the claim term “third clamp” is no longer being used. Also, the figure numbers are already preceded by “FIG.”

Concerning the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claim 36 has been amended to recite a “first” clamp and actuator device since the corresponding elements in the specification are the same as those for the first clamp and actuator device of Claim 1. On the other hand, Claim 35 continues to recite a second clamp and second actuator device, even though first such elements are not recited in Claim 35, to distinguish them from the “first” such devices recited in Claim 25. It is respectfully submitted that the reason for this nomenclature would be clear to one skilled in the art.

The claims have also been amended to further recite that the first guide is “fixed to the frame” and slidably supports the slide “for movement in a rectilinear path, whereby the first and second pedals move in a rectilinear path.” Basis for the “fixed to the frame” limitation is evident from Fig. 1 and is described at lines 10-14 of page 4. Basis for the “for movement in a rectilinear path, whereby the first and second pedals move in a rectilinear path” limitation is evident from Figs. 2 and 4 and is described at lines 13-20 of page 13.

Claims 25, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Brock in view of French patent publication 2611832 (Brero) and U.S. patent 3,975,972 (Muyleck). It is respectfully submitted that the amended claims define over this prior art.

The claims now further recite that the first guide is fixed to the frame and slidably supports the slide for movement in a rectilinear path, whereby the first and second pedals

move in a rectilinear path. As a result, the angle of the pedals is not modified by the adjustment, whereby their heights are not varied as a result of adjustment. On the other hand, the ball screw 48 in Brock is hinged to the frame via pin 54 (col. 3, lines 41-46; Fig. 3) – it is not “fixed” to the frame.

Further, the “slide” 24 in Brock is attached to the cradle 20, which pivots relative to a fixed support bracket 100 at pivot pins 110 (col. 3, lines 53-56) – it is not supported by the “first guide” 48 for “movement in a rectilinear path.” Therefore, the pedals cannot maintain a constant height as a result of the adjustment. See. e.g., the solid and chain line positions in Figs. 6 and 7.

Nor would Brero or Muyleck overcome this shortcoming of Brock. Brero teaches a device for adjusting the operating tension of flexible controls but provides no teaching regarding linear movement of pedals in an adjustable set of pedals for a motor vehicle. Muyleck discloses a mechanism for adjusting the angular position of the lower portion of a vehicle pedal relative to the upper portion. Needless to say, this would not provide a teaching for modifying Brock such that the pedals move “in a rectilinear path.”

Moreover, Claim 35 further recites that the second clamp is actuatable to be clamped for blocking the sliding movement of the first (braking) pedal along the control rod. Although Brero discloses a clamp, *per se*, it has no relation to vehicle pedals and would not have rendered it obvious to have clamped the pedals of Brock.

Applicant therefore believes that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicits an early notice of allowability.

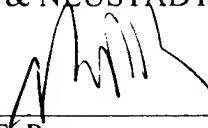
Respectfully submitted,

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